GED TESTING SERVICE®

Introducing the 2014 GED® Test Item Samplers

Item Samplers – Overview

- The 2014 GED® Test Item Samplers are tools designed for adult educators and others to introduce examples of the questions that will appear on the 2014 GED® test.

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Item Samplers - Purposes

The purposes of the Item Samplers are to help educators

- Understand the item types used in each test
- View the content in context of
  - test items and
  - a simulated computer-based testing environment
- Identify the assessment target and indicator for each item
- Understand the rationale for the correct answer
- Understand the rationale for the incorrect answers
- Understand the criteria for evaluating constructed response items

Item Samplers – Content Areas

- There are four Item Samplers, one for each content area of the 2014 GED® test
  - Reasoning Through Language Arts
  - Mathematical Reasoning
  - Science
  - Social Studies

Item Samplers – Formats

- The Item Samplers are available in three different formats, all containing the same information. You can
  - Access the Item Samplers using your web browser and Internet connection, or
  - Download the Item Samplers for use in situations where you will not have an active Internet connection, or
  - View or download a printable PDF containing all the content of the Item Samplers
    - for use in situations that focus on the *content* of the test questions rather than the *computer functionality*

Web-based Item Samplers - Functionality

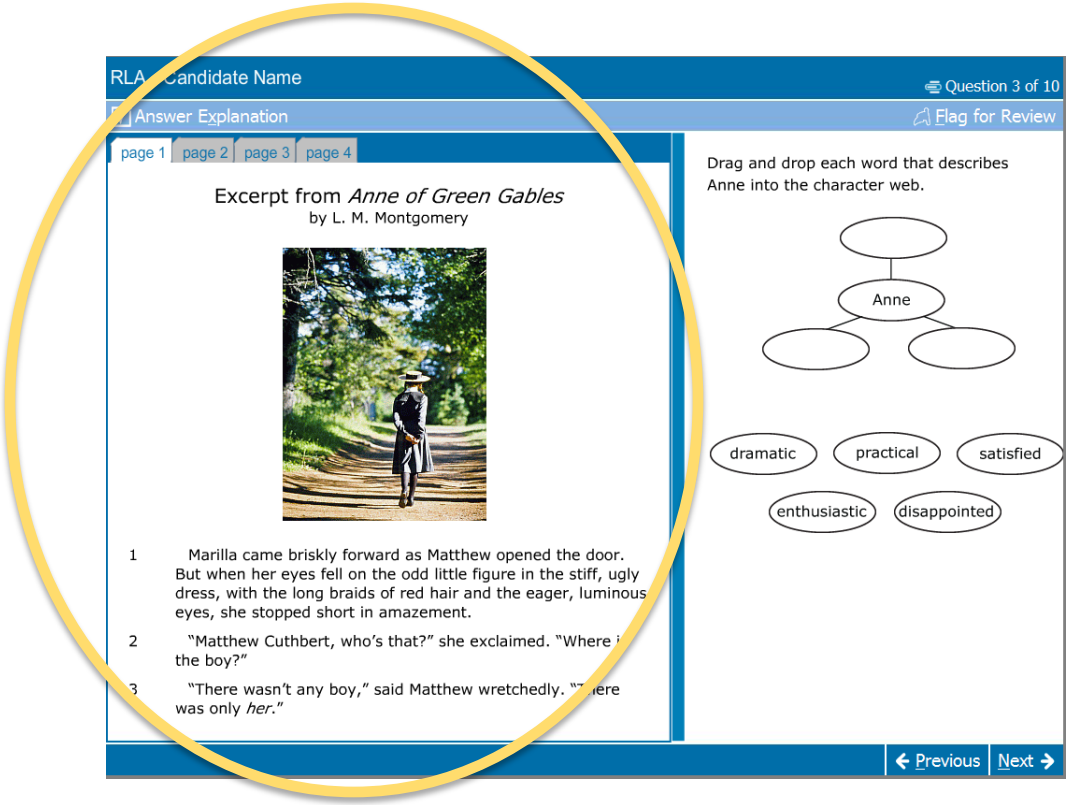
- The Item Samplers have the look and functionality of the operational test in 2014, but are simulations of the actual testing software, not the testing software itself
  - The Item Samplers run on the internet, while the real test, just like the current 2002 GED® test on computer, will only be given in official GED Testing Centers
  - While the Item Samplers provide scoring information, they don't include any actual scoring functionality

Item Samplers – Content and Functionality

- Each sampler presents questions that represent both
  - The content that will be covered on the 2014 GED® test as well as
  - The functionality of various item types

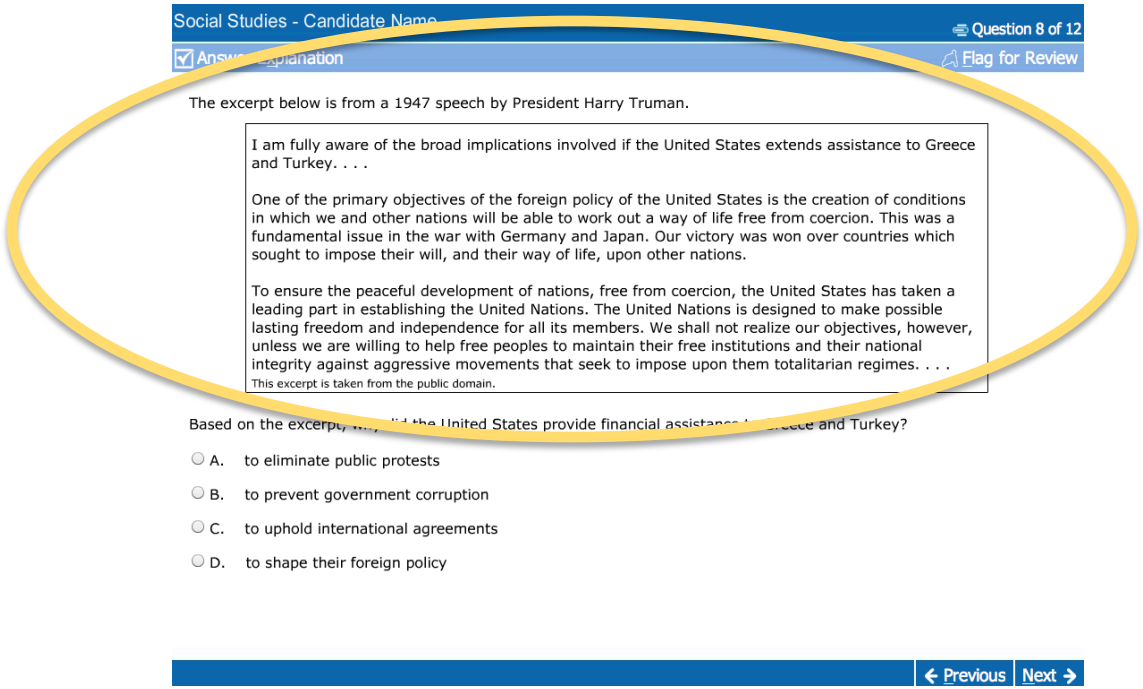
Item Samplers - Stimulus

- The stimulus material that the item is based on generally appears on the left-hand pane of the screen



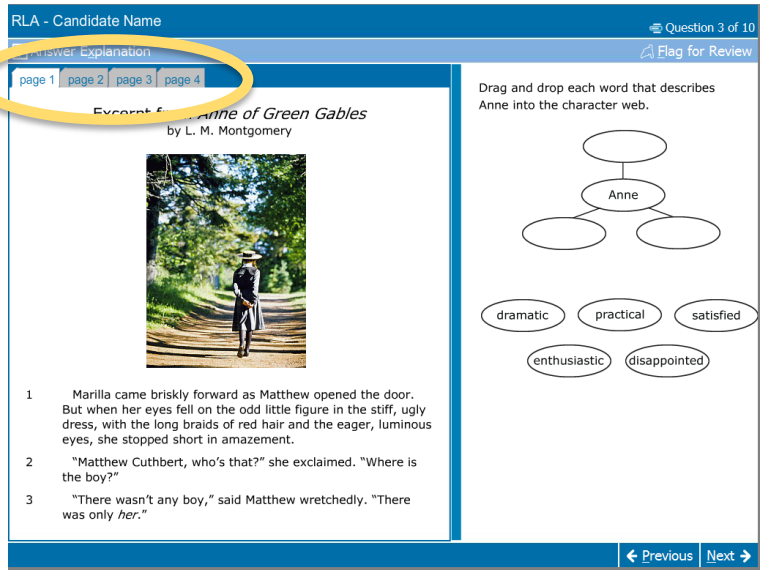
Item Samplers - Stimulus

- If the stimulus material is brief, however, the screen will not be split into left and right-hand panes, and the stimulus and the question will all appear in one central window.



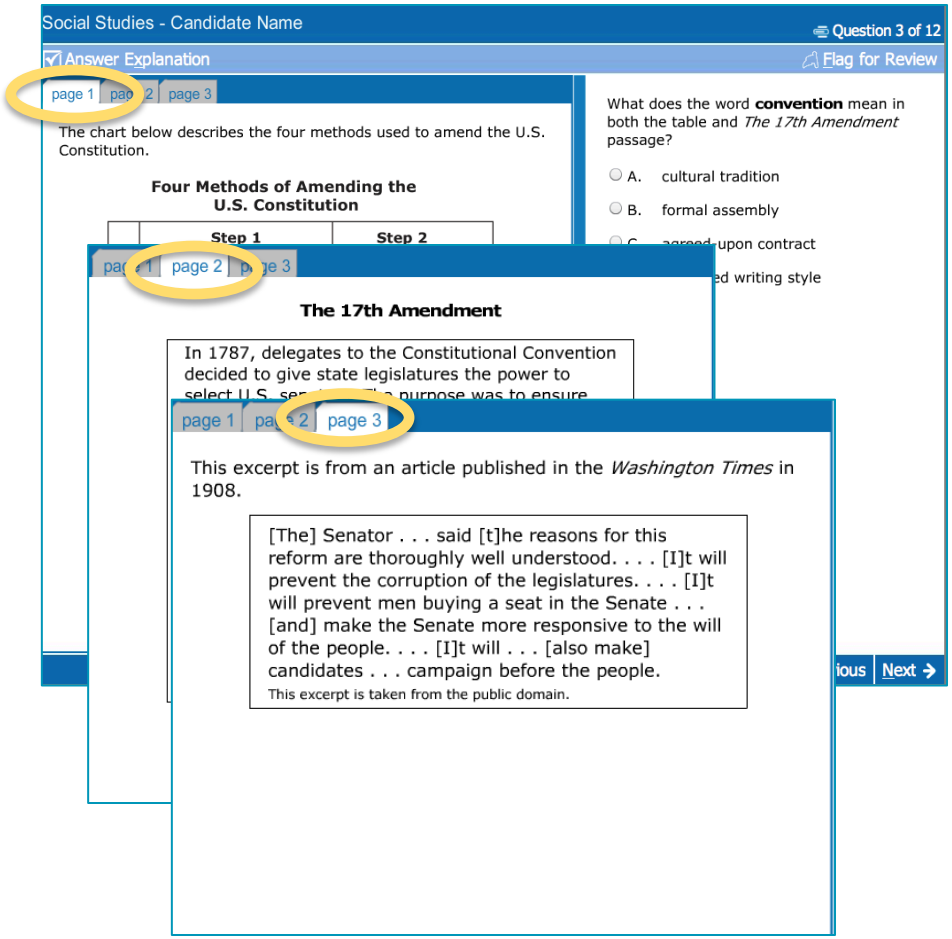
Item Samplers - Stimulus

- The stimulus material may be “tabbed” – each tab representing pages or “screens” of material to be read.
  - the use of tabs
    - reduces scrolling and
    - makes the materials more readily accessible.



Item Samplers - Stimulus

- For some questions the stimulus materials might consist of several different documents – for example, a chart, an article, and an excerpt from a source document like the constitution – each appearing on one or more tabs.

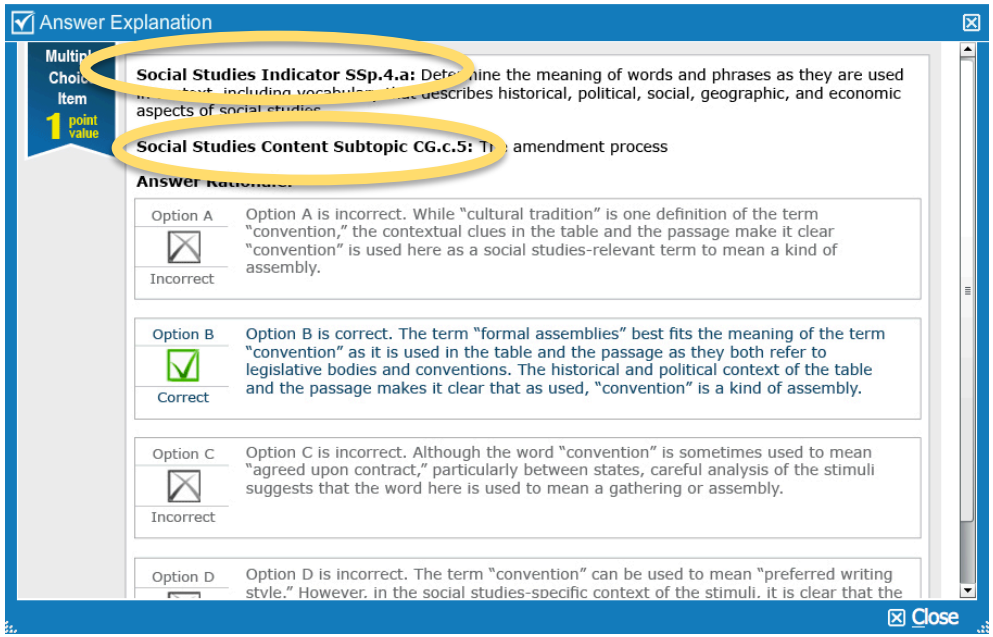


Item Samplers – Item Sets

- Sometimes multiple test items are based on the same stimulus material.
  - In these cases the left-hand pane remains consistent from question-to-question,
  - but the right-hand pane changes to present new test questions.
- While scrolling will be minimized, sometimes scrolling will occur in either a stimulus passage or the test question.

Item Samplers – Answer Explanations

- Each item has an “answer explanation” tool on the tool bar containing additional information about the item and its answer.
- Some of the information included is:
  - the question type (e.g., multiple choice, short answer, hot spot, etc.)
  - the point value of the question
    - not all questions are worth just 1 point
  - an identifier of the Assessment Target and Indicator being measured by the question
  - the correct answer with its explanation (rationale)
  - The incorrect answer choices and the explanation (rationale)



Item Samplers – Depth of Knowledge (DOK)

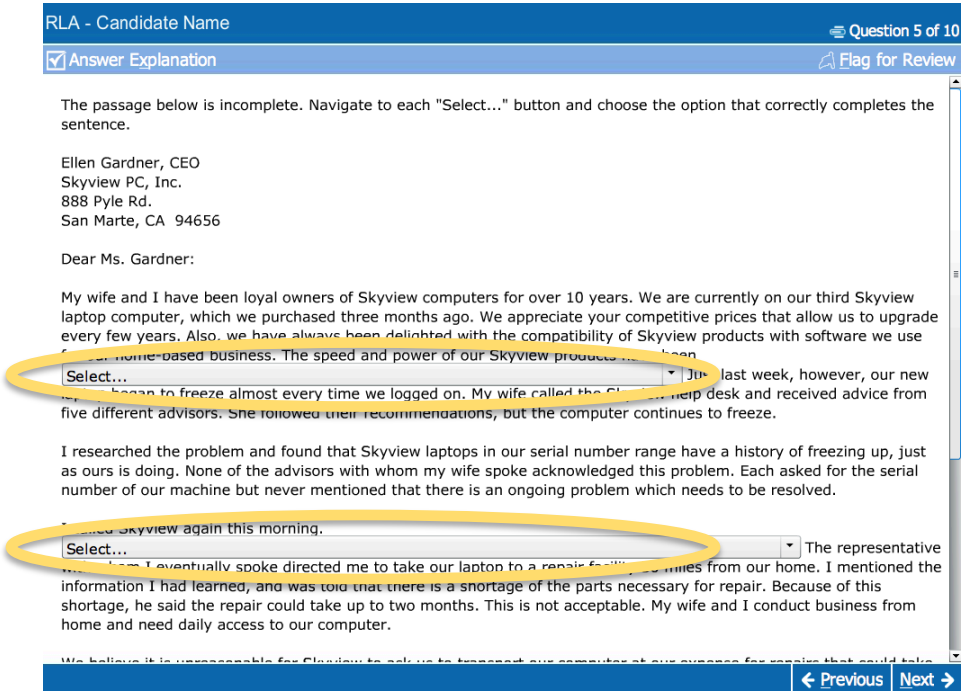
- Descriptions of the Depth of knowledge or DOK level are not provided for each question.
  - that information will be presented in a separate document on the assessment page of the GED Testing Service web site to be released later this summer

Item Samplers – Short Answers

- Short answer item types are identified in the instructions by the amount of suggested time allocated to them – 10 minutes
- For Short Answer questions, the answer explanation is tabbed
  - The first tab is the scoring guide, describing the criteria for scoring individual responses.
  - The other tabs provide examples of responses at each score point level.
    - The top part of the tab is the test-taker response
    - The lower part of the tab is the “annotation” – the explanation and rationale for why the response would have received that score.

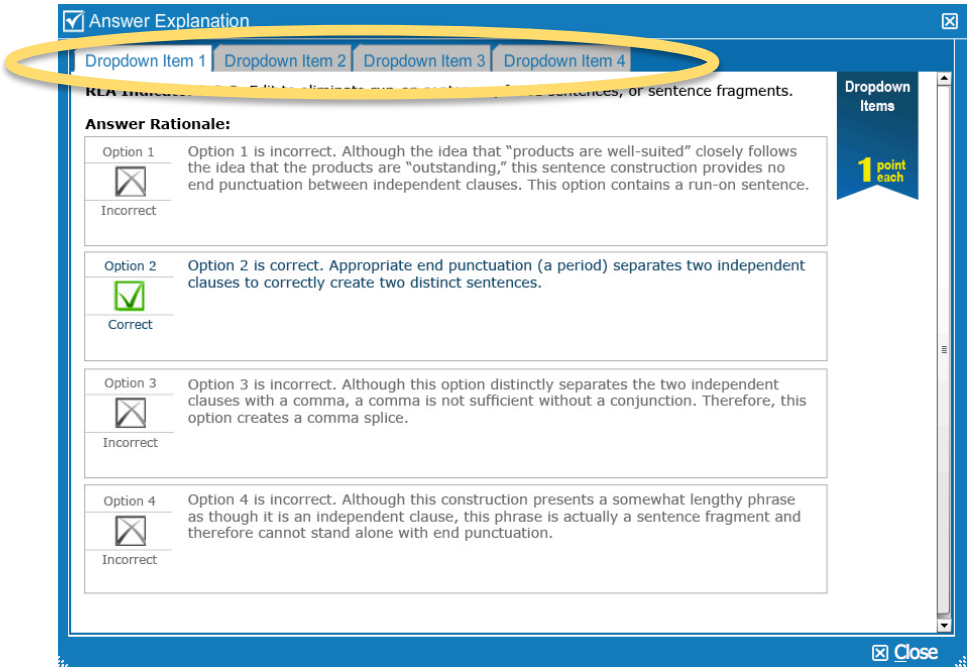
Item Samplers – Drop Down Items

- Drop-down question types contain a passage that might have several drop-down boxes within it, each drop-down box having several answer options.



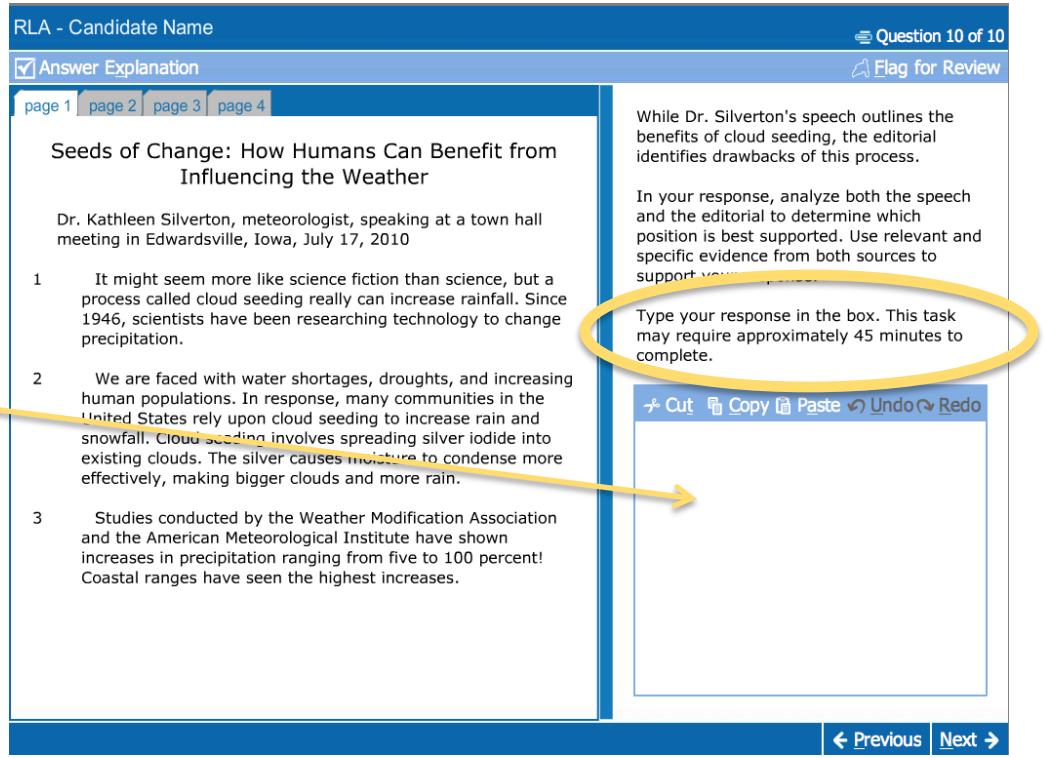
Item Samplers – Drop Down Items Answer Explanation

- The answer explanation for these types of questions each have their own answer explanation tab
  - the rationales behind each of the options, both correct and incorrect, are presented on individual tabs.



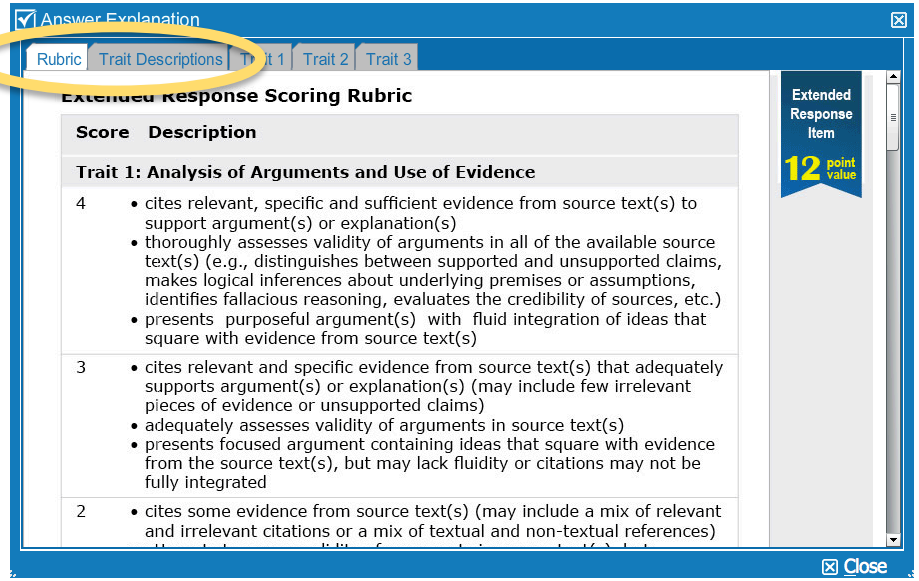
Item Samplers – Extended Response Items

- Extended Response items are identified by the directions indicating the estimated time allocation –
  - 45 minutes in Reasoning Through Language Arts and
  - 25 minutes in Social Studies
- Although the answer box appears small, the amount of space will expand as more text is entered, so there is no need to worry about running out of answer space.



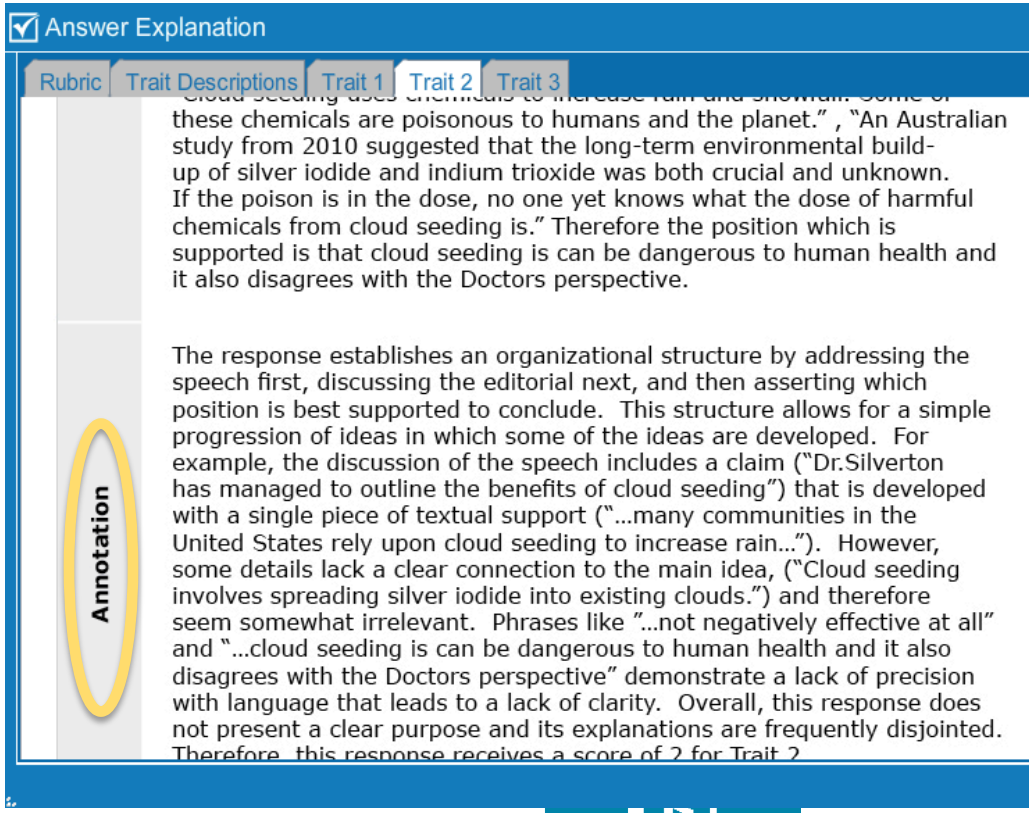
Item Samplers – ER Answer Explanations

- Tab 1 on the ER answer explanation is the ER scoring rubric
- Tab 2 takes the rubric and presents the information in a narrative format, describing the characteristics of the top-level score point on each trait in general, and then providing application to the sample item specifically.



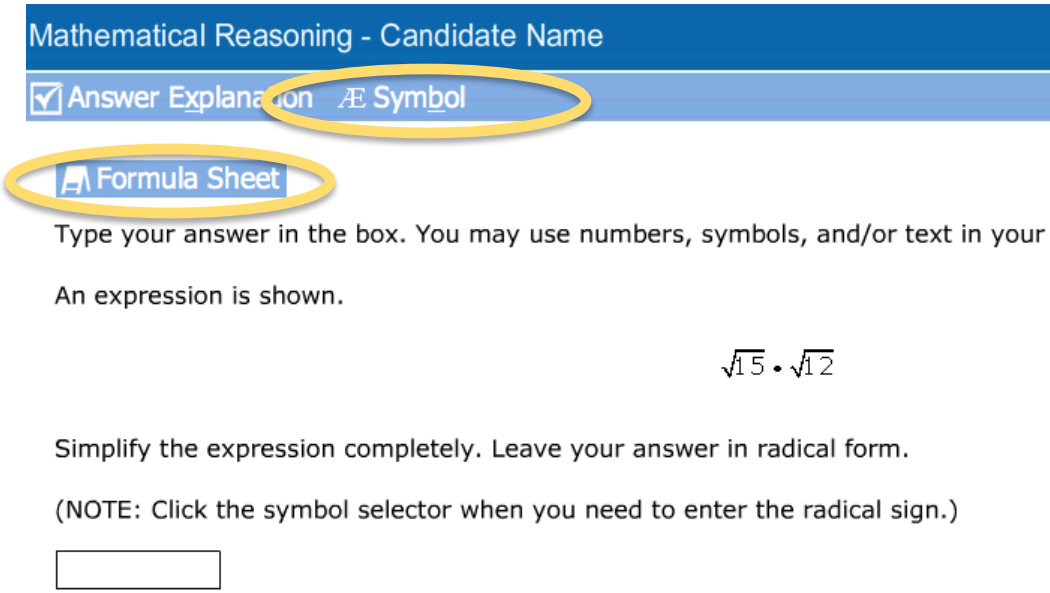
Item Samplers – ER Answer Explanations

- The tabs marked Traits 1 , Trait 2, and Trait 3 provide three actual test-taker responses and each is evaluated on one of the traits. The examples chosen are at the minimally acceptable level of 2 out of 4.
- Each of those tabs provides an annotation from GED Testing Service that explains why the response provided would be assigned a particular score on that trait.



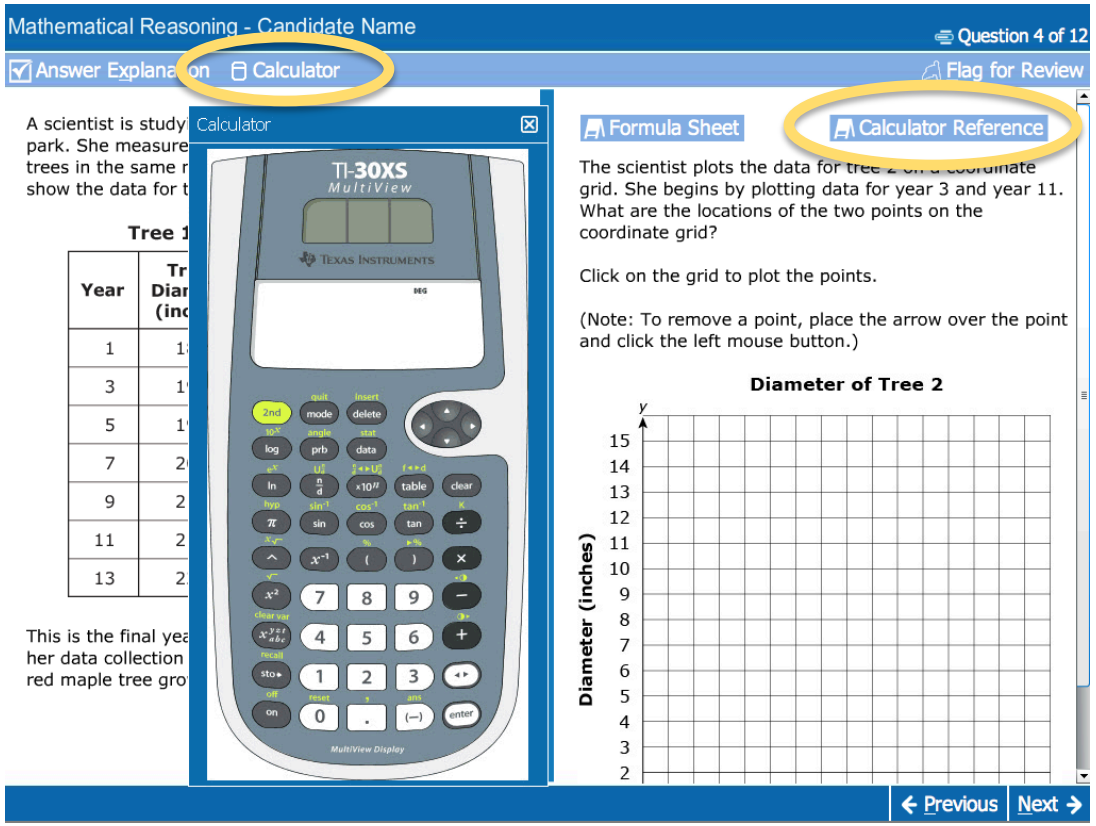
Item Samplers – Math Tools

- The Mathematical Reasoning Sampler has several additional tools:
  - The "Formula Sheet" tool.
  - The Symbol tool that allows test-takers to select certain mathematical symbols in a fill-in-the blank response.



Item Samplers – Math Tools

- Most questions in the mathematical reasoning test and some items in the science and social studies tests will also include
  - The Calculator tool – a link to the on-screen Texas Instruments TI-30XS scientific calculator, and
  - The Calculator reference tool – which shows example calculations on the TI-30XS

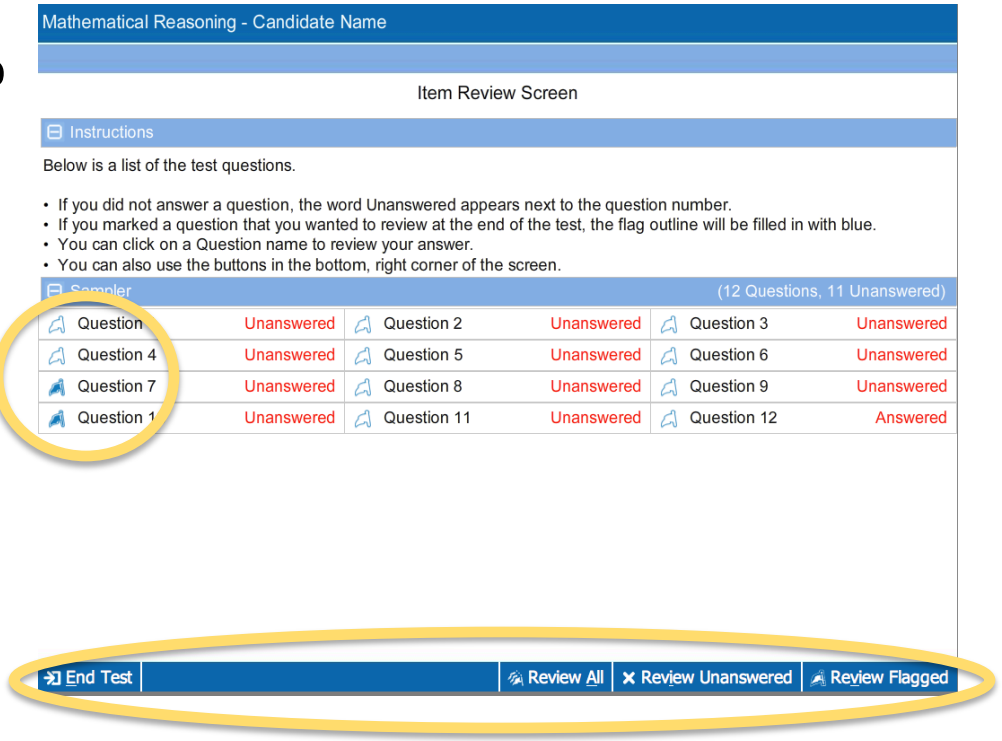


Item Samplers – Calculator Tutorials

- Note – the calculator tool in the Item Samplers are only images of the TI-30XS –not a working calculator. Visit http://www.atomiclearning.com/ti30xs/ for tutorials on the TI-30XS. GED Testing Service will be providing GED® test-specific tutorial materials in the future.

Item Samplers – Test-taker Tools

- Each of the items contains the “Flag for Review” tool, to indicate how a test-taker would identify a particular item that he or she wanted to revisit before submitting their test for scoring.
- The last screen in each Sampler is the review screen.
  - This shows how test-takers would be able to navigate back through the test to revisit questions or check their answers



Item Samplers - Summary

- There is a lot more to explore in the item samplers, but this quick introduction will get you started.
- Monitor our website for announcements in the coming weeks and months about new resources to help you prepare adult learners for success on the 2014 GED® test.
- If you have comments and questions, don't hesitate to email us at GED2014@gedtestingservice.com.

On behalf of GED Testing Service, thank you!